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Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

RSC-01 OIC-02 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 FEAE-00 /094 W
---------- 038861
R 081420Z NOV 74
FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5240
INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: AORG, OCON, TECH, IAEA
SUBJ: IAEA REGIONAL STUDY OF GROUP MEETING ON IDENTIFICATION
OF NEW ROLES FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTERS, VIENNA,
DECEMBER 16-20, 1974

REF : STATE 238111

1. MISSION HAS DISCUSSED REFTEL WITH AGENCY SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY FOR SUBJECT MEETING (SPANO, US), WHO PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. AS BACKGROUND, AEC WILL RECALL THAT ROLE OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTERS, PARTICULARLY RESEARCH REACTOR CENTERS AND SCIENTIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE BUILT AROUND THEM, HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE AND CONTINUING DISCUSSION WITHIN AGENCY COMMUNITY OVER PAST FEW YEARS; PRIMARY POINT OF THIS DISCUSSION IS THAT PRESTIGE VALUE WHICH FORMERLY JUSTIFIED SUPPORT FOR ALMOST ANY NUCLEAR PROGRAM, REGARDLESS OF RELEVANCE TO OTHER NATIONAL GOALS OR OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPING AND EVEN SOME SMALLER ADVANCED COUNTRIES HAS JUST ABOUT EVAPORATED IN TODAY'S WORLD. NUCLEAR PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MUST ACTIVELY SEEK WAYS OF AVOIDING USE OF RESOURCES IN (FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY) TYPES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WHICH ARE RELATIVELY STERILE VIS-A-VIS PRESSING OBJECTIVES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, IF CONTINUING JUSTIFICATION IS TO BE
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FOUND FOR ENTIRE CONCEPT OF NECLEAR RESEARCH CENTERS AS PRESENTLY

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CONSTITUTUTED. PUT VERY BLUNTLY, THERE IS GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT NUCLEAR PROGRAMS MUST BECOME MORE DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT TASKS IF A) THEY ARE NOT BE BECOME SIMPLY A DRAIN ON A DEVELOPING COUNTRY'S SCARCE RESOURCES AND B) THEREFORE COME IN FOR INCREASINGLY SMALL SHARE OF SUCH RESOURCES, THUS EFFECTIVELY THROTTLING FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THESE NUCLEAR PROGRMS. IN ADDITION, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMPETENCE BUILT UP IN SUCH CENTERS OVER NUMBER OF YEARS, IN LARGE PART WITH AGENCY SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE, IS SUCH THAT IT WOULD BE WASTEFUL OF HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND THUS NOT RPT NOT PARTICULARLY COST-EFFECTIVE IN DEVELOPMENTAL TERMS TO ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN; RATHER, MEANS NEED TO BE SOUGHT TO UTILIZE SUCH CAPABILITIES FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

3. WHILE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF AGREEMENT ON THIS DEFINITION OF PROBLEM WITHIN AGENCY AND RELATED COMMUNITIES, HOWEVER, THERE IS AS YET NO RPT NO GENERAL CONSENSUS, OR EVEN VERY MANY GOOD IDEAS, AS TO HOW TO GO ABOUT DEALING WITH IT. "RELEVANT" IS QUESTION-BEGGING TERM, AND IN THIS CONTEXT CAN BE SO GENERAL AS TO BE ALMOST USELESS AS GUIDE TO SPECIFIC PROCESS OF REORDERING PRIORITIES AND REDEFINITION OF GOALS BY NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAMS AND BY NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTERS' MANAGERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS.

4. RE : SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS EXPECTED FROM STUDY GROUP (PARA 2A REFTEL): GIVEN ABOVE-MENTIONED UNCERTAINTY ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED, AFTER DEFINITION OF WHAT IS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE A PROBLEM, TOWARD SOME WASY OF RESOLVING IT, SPANO STATED THAT IT WAS NOT RPT NOT VERY LIKELY THAT RESULTS OF THIS INITIAL STUDY GROUP WOULD BE VERY CONCRETE, E.G., A GUIDEBOOK OR TECHNCIAL REPORT ON HOW TO REORDER PRIORITYIES AND TASKS OF A NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER. HE STATED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A FEW PAPERS PRESENTED, AND THAT THESE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE PUBLISHED IF THERE PROVED TO BE ANY WAY OF ORDERING THEM IN LOGICAL SEQUENCE SO AS TO BE OF MUCH USE. HE ALSO EXPECTED THAT SUMMARY OF MEETING DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE PUBLISHED IN SOME FORM. HOWEVER, PRIMARY POINT OF MEETING IS FOR EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND SOME BRAINSTORMING AMONG OFFICIALS WHO ARE SIEZED OF THIS PROBELM DUE TO WORKING IN OR MANAGING NUCLEAR RESERACH CENTERS IN DEVELOPING OR OTHER ADVANCED COUNTRIES, AND OFFICIALS FROM ADVANCED COUNTRIES WHO HAVE MORE UNCLASSIFIED

EXPERIENCE IN DEFINITION OF GOALS, TASKS AND PROGRAMS FOR SUCH CENTERS, OR WHO MAY HAVE ALREADY GONE THROUGH EXPERIENCE OF MANDATORY REORDERING AND RESTRUCTURING OF PRIORITIES DUE TO BUDGETARY OR OTHER STRICTURES PLACED ON PROGRAMS OR CENTERS THEY WERE INVOLVED IN.

5. RE PARA 2B REFTEL, SPANO FELT IT QUITE IMPORTANT THAT US BE REPRESENTED IN THIS STUDY GROUP, AS HE FELT NUMBER OF US NATIONALS

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WOULD BE ABLE TO OFFER BOTH PARTICULAR EXPERIENCE FROM HAVING GONE
THROUGH EXERCISE OF REAPPRAISAL OF PRIORITIES OR TASKS FOR
NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTERS, AND BROAD BACKGROUND ON ESTABLISH-
MENT AND EVALUATION OF NATIONAL GOALS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
POLICY ANDPARTICULARLY IN ROLE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AMONG NATIONAL
PRIORITIES. MISSION FEELING IS THAT QUESTION WHICH THIS STUDY
GROUP IS TO GRAPPLE WITH ARE BOTH EXCELLENT ONES AND QUESTIONS
WHICH WE ARE WELL AWARE ARE BEING ASKED WITH INCREASING FREQUNECY
BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BESET WITH GROWING PROBLEMS OF GREAT
IMMEDIACY, E.G., FOOD, POPULATION, ENERGY AND OIL PRICES, ETCM
AND WE SEE REAL CHANCE THAT NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTERS AND EVEN
NATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMS AS SUCH WILL BE SQUEEZED OUT
OF PICTURE, OR SHUNTED OFF INTO CORNER FAR FROM REAL NATIONAL DEV-
ELOPMENTAL GOALS, UNLESS SUCH CENTERS ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

RSC-01 OIC-02 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 FEAE-00 /094 W
---------- 039179
R 081420Z NOV 74
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MORE CONCRETE JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR EXISTANCE THAN ABSTRACT
SCIENCE (E.G., IT IS SOMETHING OF A CONTRADITION IN TERMS
THAT A COUNTRY WITH EVEN A RELATIVELY SMALL NUCLEAR RESEARCH
CAPABILITY SHOULD HAVE TO PURSUE A NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM
WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE FROM RESEARCH CENTER - BUT IT
DOES HAPPEN). OUR OPINION IS THAT THIS WOULD BE PITY IN
ABSTRACT, AND COUTERPRODUCTIVE AS WELL IN THAT IF DEVELOPING
WORLD PLANS TO EVER REALLY RESOLVE ITS OWN PROBLEMS, RATHER
THAN TREATING SYMPTOMS, IT MUST BE DONE THROUGH WIDE-
RANGING USE OF MODERN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL METHODS
ORIENTED BROADLY TOWARD NATIONAL PROBLEMS AND GOALS. WHILE

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WE (AS DOES SPANO) HAVE SOME DOUBTS THAT STUDY GROUP WILL BE MUCH MORE THAN A TENTATIVE START AT NIBBLING AT EDGES OF THIS PROBLEM, WE FEEL THAT IT IS AN IMPORTANT ENOUGH ISSUE TO WARRAN/SOME CONSIDERABLE EFFORT BY US TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INPUT; FURTHER, WE SUGGEST THAT US INTEREST IN THIS PROBLEM SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BEGIN AND END WITH WHOEVER IT DECIDES TO SENT TO THIS PARTICULAR MEETING, BUT THAT WE WHOULD STRONGLY ENCOURAGE AGENCY TO CONTINUE TO GRAPPLE WITH THIS ISSUE.

6. RE PARA 2C REFTEL, SPANO SUGGESTED THAT ONE OFFICIAL OF WHOM HE KNEW, WHO HAD GONE THROUGH EXPERIENCE OF REORDERING OF PRIORITIES AND GOALS OF SUCH A RESEARCH CENTER, MIGHT BE DR. REBER M. BRUGGER, RESEARCH REACTOR UNCLASSIFIED

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FACILITY, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI. SPANO ALSO CONSIDERED THAT REORIENTATION OF RESEARCH PROGRAM AT MATERIALS TESTING REACTOR FACILITY IN IDAHO MIGHT HAVE GIVEN SOME OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED THERE SORT OF BACKGROUND THAT HE FELT MIGHT BE USE FUL, AND BELIEVED THAT SOME PROGRAMS AT LOS ALAMOS AHD GONE THROUGH SIMILAR EXERCISES. REGARDING BROADER MATTER OF RELATIONSHIP OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND RESEARCH CENTERS TO NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND TO NATIONAL POLICY GOALS IN GENERAL, SPANO HAD FEWER SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THIS SHOULD BE FAIRLY SENIOR INDIVIDUAL WITH PROGRAM DIRECTION EXPERIENCE IN RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PREFERABLY IN SOME DEGREE AT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL. MISSION NOTED HE WAS SHOOTING HIGH. SPANO AGREED, BUT SAID THAT, NEVERTHELESS, SUCH INDIVIDUAL COULD BE PRODUCTIVE PARTICIPANT IN MEETING AND HE CONSIDERED THAT HE SHOULD MAKE THE SUGGESTION AND URGE US TO TRU.

7. RE: PARA 2D REFTEL, SPANO PROVIDED MISSION WITH LIST OF FOLLOWING COUNTRIES WHICH WILL BE REPRESENTED AT MEETING: UK, NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, AUSTRIA, FRG, GDR, HUNGARY, ROMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA, SPAIN, ISRAEL, EGYPT, TURKEY. HE NOTED THAT IDEA FOR STUDY GROUP SESSION SUCH AS THIS HAD ORIGINALLY COME FROM YUGOSLAVIA.

8. RE PARA 2E REFTEL, MISSION CONSIDERS THAT US SHOULD NOT RPT NOT NOMINATE SOMEONE AND USE COST-FREE EXPERT FUNDS TO SEND HIM MERELY TO ENSURE US REPRESENTATION AT MEETING. IF BRUGGER, SUGGESTED BY SPANO, IS AVAILABLE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE COULD PERSUADE SPANO TO PROPOSE THAT AGENCY PAY FOR HIS PARTICIPATION AND USE HIM AS DISCUSSION LEADER; IF HE IS INTERESTED, SUGGEST THAT WE EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT USE OF COST-FREE EXPERT FUNDS JUSTIFIED. IN EVENT ONE OR MORE OTHER

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INDIVIDUALS, ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY SPANO AND INDICATED IN FOREGOING DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS WITH WHICH THIS STUDY GROUP WILL BE CONCERNED, CAN BE IDENTIFIED, MISSION CONSIDERS THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY WORTHWHILE USE OF COST-FREE EXPERT FUNDS TO SEND THEM TO PARTICIPATE AT NO COST TO AGENCY.

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9. REQUEST AEC ADVISE OF POSSIBLE US PARTICIPANTS WHO MIGHT BE AVAILABLE, AND WE CAN PURSUE QUESTION OF WHETHER AGENCY COULD PAY FURTHER WITH SPANO. LABOWITZ

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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